INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/014545 CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl⁷ B23K11/20, B23K11/16, C23C2/12, C22C21/02 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl' B23K11/20, B23K11/16, C23C2/12, C22C21/02 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category* Relevant to claim No. Y JP 2003-145278 A (Kobe Steel, Ltd.), 1-4 20 May, 2003 (20.05.03), Par. Nos. [0017], [0018] (Family: none) Y JP 9-228018 A (Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.), 1 - 402 September, 1997 (02.09.97), Par. Nos. [0004], [0011] (Family: none) Y JP 9-220692 A (Nisshin Steel Co., Ltd.), 1 - 426 August, 1997 (26.08.97), Par. Nos. [0004], [0011] (Family: none) \boxtimes Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. Special categories of cited documents: later document published after the international filing date or priority document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "A" date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be filing date considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be special reason (as specified) considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination **"**O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than being obvious to a person skilled in the art the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 07 December, 2004 (07.12.04) 21 December, 2004 (21.12.04) Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Authorized officer Japanese Patent Office

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